

The Old, Old, Very Old Man:

OR,

The Age and long Life of *Thomas Parr*, the
Son of *John Parr* of *Winnington* in the Parish
of *Alberbury*; in the County of *Salop*, (or *Shropshire*)
who was borne in the the Reigne of King *Edward*
the fourth, in the yeare 1483.

Hee lived 152 yeares, nine monthes and odd dayes,
and departed this Life at *Westminster* the 15 of *Novem.*
1635, and is now buried in the Abby at *Westminster*.

His Manner of Life and Conversation in so long
a Pilgrimage; his Marriages, and his bringing up to
London, about the end of *September* last. 1635.

Whereunto is Added a Postscript, shewing
the many remarkable Accidents that
happned in the Life of this *Old Man*.

Written by *IOHN TAYLOR*.

LONDON,

Printed for *Henry Goffon*, at his Shop on
London Bridge, neere to the Gate.

1635.

The Old

Very Old Man

O R,

The Age and long Life of Thomas P., the
Son of John P., of Warrington in the Parish
of Albury, in the County of Suffolk (or Shropshire)
who was born in the Reign of King Edward
the fourth, in the year 1487.

He lived 172 years, nine months and odd days,
and departed this Life at Westminster the 17th of November
1657, and is now buried in the Abbey at Westminster.

His Manner of Life and Conversation in so long
a Pilgrimage; his Marriages, and his bringing up to
London, about the end of September last, 1657.

Whereunto is Added a Postscript, shewing
the many remarkable Accidents that
happ'd in the Life of this Old Man.

Written by JOHN TAYLOR.

LONDON,

Printed for Henry Gosson, at his Shop
London Bridge, next to the Gate.


1657.

B.F.

TO
**THE HIGH AND
 MIGHTIE PRINCE,**

By the Grace of God,

King of great Britaine, France and
 Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c.

 **Y**our Subjects (my dread Liege) tis manifest,
 Yhave had the oldst, the greatest, & the least:
 That for an Old, a Great, and Little man,
 No kingdom (sure) compare with Britain can;
 One, for his extraordinary stature,
 Guards well your gates, & by instinct of Nature
 (As hee is strong) is Loyall, True, and Just,
 Fit, and most able, for his Charge and Trust.
 The other's small and well composed feature
 Deserves the Title of a Pretty Creature:
 And doth (or may) retaine as good a mind
 As Greater men, and be as well inclin'd:

The Epistle.

Hee may be great in spirit, though small in sight,
Whilst all his best of service, is Delight.

The Old'st, your Subject was; but for my use,
I make him here, the Subject of my Muse;

And as his Aged Person gaind the grate,
That where his Sovereign was, to be in place,

And kisse your Royall Hand; I humbly crave,
His Lives Description may Acceptance have,

And as your Majesty hath oft before

Look'd on my Poems; Pray read this one more

Your Majesties

Humble Subject

and

Servant

JOHN TAYLOR.

THE OCCASION OF
this Old Man's being brought out
of Shropshire to LONDON.



Sir it is impossible for the Sunne to be without light; or fire to have no heate; so is it undeniable that true Honour is as inseparably addicted to Vertue, as the Steele to the Load-stone; and without great violence neither the one or the other can be sundred. Which manifestly appeares, in the conveying out of the Countrey, of this poore ancient Man; Monument I may say, and almost Miracle of Nature.

For the Right Honorable, Thomas Earle of Arundell and Surrey, Earle Marshall of England, &c. being lately in Shropshire to visit some Lands and Manours which his Lordship holds in that Countrey, or, for some other occasions of Importance which caused his Lordship to be there. The Report of this Aged Man was certified to his Honour, who hearing of so remarkable a Piece of Antiquity, his Lordship was pleased to see him,
and

Noble and Christian Piety, he
 commanding that a Litter and two Hor-
 ses, and a carriage of a man so infir-
 me with Age, to bee provided for
 that a Daughter-in-Law of his (named
 likewise attend him, and have a
 owne riding with him; And (to
 the Old Man, and make him merry)
 an Antique, fat fellow, called Jacke,
 with a high and mighty no Beard,
 a Horse for his carriage. These all
 brought out of the Countrey to Ban-
 Lourneyes, the Charges being allowed
 ship, and likewise one of his Honours
 ants, named Brian Kelley, to ride on
 with them, and to attend and defray all
 Reckonings and Expences, all which
 accordingly, as followeth.
 is a Hamlet in the Parish of Little-
 place called the *Welsh Pools*, eight miles
 from whence he was carried to
 of the Charles aforesaid; and the next
 (a Manour House of his Lordships)
 likewise staid one night from *Spersford*
Woolverhampton, and the next day to

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The Life of Thomas Parr.

Brimicbam, from thence to *Corentry*; and although Master *Kelley* had much to do to keepe the people off that pressed upon him in all places where hee came, yet at *Corentry* he was most oppressed: for they came in such mu'titudes to see the Old Man, that those that defended him, were almost quite tyred and spent, and the aged man in danger to have bin stifled; and in a word, the rabble were so unruly, that *Bryan* was in doubt hee should bring his Charge no further; (so greedy are the Vulgar to hearken to, or gaze after novelties.) The trouble being over, the next day they past to *Darenty*, to *stony Stratford*, to *Redburn*, and so to *London*, where he is well entertain'd and accomodated with all things, having all the aforesaid Attendants, at the sole Charge and Cost of his Lordship.

One Remarkable Passage of the Old Mans Pollicie must not be omitted or forgotten, which is thus.

His three Leases of 63. yeares being expired, he tooke his last Lease of his Landlord (one Master *John Porter*) for his Life, with which Lease, he did live more then 50. yeares (as is further hereafter declared;) but this Old Man would (for his wives sake) renew his Lease for yeares, which his Landlord would not consent unto; wherefore old Parr, (having been long blind) sitting in his house by

The very Old Man: or

the fire, his wife look'd out of the window, and perceiv'd Master *Edward Porter*, the Son of his landlord, to come towards their house, which she told her husband, saying, Husband, our young Landlord is comming hither: Is he so, said old *Parr*; I prethee wife lay a Pin on the ground neere my foot, or at my right toe; which, she did; and when yong Master *Porter* (yet forty yeares old) was come into the house, after salutations between them, the Old Man said, Wife, is not that a Pin which lyes at my foot? Truly husband, quoth she, it is a Pin indeed, so she took up the Pin, and Master *Porter* was halfe in a maze that the Old Man had recovered his sight againe; but it was quickly found to be a witty conceit, therby to have them to suppose him to be more lively than he was, because hee hop'd to have his Lease renew'd for his wives sake, as aforesaid.

Hee hath had two Children by his first wife, a Son and a Daughter, the Boyes name was *John*, and lived but ten weekes; the Girl was named *Joan*, and shee lived but three weekes. So that it appeares hee did not live the most part of the people that are living neere there, three times over.

The

The Very Old Man:

^{O.R.} The Life of Thomas Parr.

AN Old man's twice a child (the proverb saies)
And many old men nere save halfe this daies
Of whom I write, for hee so first had life,
When Yorkc and Lancastres Domestique strife
In her owne blood had fastibus England drench'd
Vntill sweet Peace those civil flames had quench'd
When as fourth Edwards raigned to end drewe nigh,
John Parr (a man that liv'd by Husbandry)
Begot this Thomas Parr, and berie was hee
The yeare of fourteen hundred eightie three,
And as his Fathers Living and his Trade,
Was Plough, and Carr, Siche, Sickle, Bill, and Spade,
The Harrow, Mattock, Flayle, Rake, Fork, & Goad,
And Whip, and how to Load, and to Unload,
Old Tom hath shew'd himselfe the Son of John,
And from his Fathers function high nor gone.

Yet I have read of as meane Pedigrees,
That have attain'd to Noble dignities
Agatholes, a Porters Son, and yet
The Kingdome of Sicilia hee did get.

The very Old Man: or

Great *Tamberlaine*, a *Scythian* Shepherd was;
Yet (in his time) all *Princes* did surpasse.

First *Ptoleme*y (the King of *Egypt*s Land)

A poore mans Son of *Alexanders* Band.

Dioclesian, Emp'rour, was a *Scriv'ners* Son,
And *Proba* from a Gard'ner th' Empire won.

Pertinax was a *Bondmans* Son, and wan

The Empire; So did *Valentinian*,

Who was the off-spring of a *Rope-maker*,

And *Maximinus* of a *Mule-driver*.

And if I on the truth doe rightly glance,

Hugh Capet was a *Butcher*, King of *France*.

By this I have digrest, I have exprest

Promotion comes not from the East or West.

• So much for that, now to my Theame againe:

This *Thomas Parr* did live th' expired Raigne

Of ten great Kings and Queenes, th' eleventh now

The *Scepter* (blest by the ancient of all days) sways

Hee did survive the *Edwards*, fourth and fift

And the third *Richard*, who made many a thift

To place the *Crown* on his Ambitious head;

The seventh & eighth brave *Henries* both are dead;

Six *Edwards*, *Mary*, *Phillip*, *Elisab*eth,

And blest remembred *Edm*und, all these by death

Have changed life, and almost seven yeares since

The happy raigoe of *Charles* our gracious Prince,

The Life of Thomas Parr.

Tom Parr did live, as by Record appears
Nine Monthes, one hundred fifty, and two yeares.
Amongst the Learn'd, 'tis held in generall
That every seventh yeare's Climactericall,
And dang'rous to mans life, and that they be
Most perillous at th' Age of sixty three,
Which is, nine Climactericals; but this Man
Of whom I write, (since first his life began)
Did live of Climactericals such plenty,
That he did almost out-live two and twenty.
For by Records, and true Certificate,
From *Shropshire* late, Relations doth relate,
That Hee liv'd 17 yeares with *John* his Father,
And 18 with a Master, which I gather
To be full thirty five; his Sires decease
Left him foure yeares Possession of a Lease;
Which past; *Lev's* Porter Gentleman, did then
For twenty one yeares grant his Lease again;
That Lease expired, the Son of *Lev's* call'd *John*,
Let him the like Lease, and that time being gone,
Then *Hugh*, the Son of *John* (last nam'd before)
For one and twenty yeares sold one Lease more.
And lastly, he hath held from *John*, *Hugh's* Son,
A Lease for's life these fifty three, out-run
And when old *Thomas* was to Earth againe
Return'd, the last Lease did his by the remaine.

Thus having shew'd th' extension of his Age,
 I'll shew some Actions of his Pilgrimage.

A tedious time, a Bachelor hee married,
 Full eightie yeares of age before he married;
 His Continnence, to question I'll not call,
 Mans frailtie's weak, and oft doth slip and fall.
 No doubt but hee in fourscore yeares might find
 In Salop's Countie, females faire and kind:
 But what have I to doe with that; let passe,
 At th' age aforesaid hee first married was
 To Iane, Iohn Tewlers Daughter, and 'tis said,
 That she (before he had her) was a Mayd,
 With her he liv'd yeares threentimes ten and two;
 And then she dy'd (as all good wives will doe.)
 She dead, he ten yeares did a Widdower stay;
 Then once more ventred in the Wedlock way;
 And in affection to his first wife Iane,
 Hee tooke another of that name againe
 (With whom he late did live) she was a widow
 To one nam'd Anthony (and surname'd Asda)
 She was (as by report it doth appeare)
 Of Gillsh, Parish, in Montgomery Shier:
 The Daughter of Iohn Lloyd (corruptly Fleas)
 Of ancient house, and gentle Cambrian Blood.

But hold, I had forgot, in's first wives Time,
 Hee frailly, foully, sell'd into a Crime.

Which

The Life of Thomas Part.

Which richer, poorer, older men, and younger,
More base, more noble, weaker men, and stronger
Have false into.

The *Cytherean*, or the *Paphzian* game,
That thundring *Jupiter* did oft inflame,
Most cruell cut-throat *Mars* layd by his Armes,
And was a slave to Loves Inchanting charmes,
And many a Pagan god, and semi-god,
The common road of lustfull love hath trod:
For from the Emp'rour to the russet Clowne,
All states, each sex, from Cottage to the Crowne,
Have in all Ages since the first Creation,
Bin soyled, & overthrow'n with Loves temptation;
So was old *Thomas*, for he chanc'd to spy
A Beauty, and Love entred at his eye,
Whose pow'rfull motion drew on sweet consent,
Consent drew Action, Action drew Content,
But when the period of these joyes were past,
Those sweet delights were sorely lost at last.
The flesh retaines, what in the Bone is bred,
And one Coltstooth was then in old *Tom*'s head,
It may be he was guld as some have bin,
And suffred punishment for others sinne;
For pleasures like a Trap, a grin, or snare,
Or (like a painted harlot) seemes most faire;
But when she goes away, and takes her leave,
Nongly Beast so foul a shape can have.

Faire *Katherin Milton*, was this Beauty bright,
 (Faire like an Angell, but in weight too light)
 Whose fervent feature did inflame so far
 The Ardent fervour of old *Thomas Parr*,
 That for Lawes satisfaction, twas thought meet,
 He should be purg'd, by standing in a Sheet,
 Which aged (He) one hundred and five yeare,
 In *Alberbury's* Parish Church did weare,
 Should All that so offend, such Penance doe,
 Oh, what a price would Linnen rise unto,
 All would be turn'd to sheets, our shirts & smocks
 Our Tabic linnen, very Porters Frocks
 Would hardly scape trans-forming, but all's one,
 He suffred, and his Punishment is done.

But to proceed, more serious in Relation,
 He is a Wonder, worthy Admiration,
 Hee's (in these times fill'd with Iniquity)
 No *Antiquary*, but *Antiquity*;
 For his Longevity's of such extent,
 That hee's a living mortall Monument.
 And as high Towres, (that seeme the sky to shoul-
 By eating Time, consume away, and molder, (der)
 Vntill at last in piece-meale they doe fall;
 Till they are buried in their Ruines All:
 So this Old Man, his limbs their strength have left,
 His teeth all gone, (but one) his sight bereft,

His

His sinewes shrunk, his blood most chill and cold,
Small solace, Imperfections manifold:
Yet did his sp'rits possesse his mortall Trunk;
Nor were his senses in his ruines shrunk,
But that with Hearing quick, and stomach good,
Hee'd feed well, sleep well, well digest his food.
He would speak heartily, laugh, and be merry;
Drinke Ale, and now and then a cup of Sherry;
Lov'd Company, and Vnderstanding talke,
And (on both sides held up) would somtimes walk.
And though old Age his face with wrinckles fill,
He hath been handsome, and was comely still,
Well fac'd, and though his Beard not oft corrected,
Yet neat it grew, not like a Beard neglected;
From head to heele, his body had all over,
A Quick-set, Thick-set nat'rall hairy cover.
And thus (as my dull weake Invention can)
I have Annatomiz'd this poore Old Man.

Though Age be incident to most transgressing,
Yet Time well spent, makes Age to be a blessing.
And if our studies would but daign to look,
And seriously to ponder Natures Booke,
We there may read, that Man, the noblest Creature,
By ryot and excesse doth murder Nature.
This man nere fed on deare compounded dishes,
Of Metamorphos'd beasts, fruits, fowls, and fishes.

The earth, and ayre, the boundlesse Ocean
 Were never rak'd nor forrag'd for this Man;
 Nor ever did Physician to (his cost)
 Send purging Phylick through his guts in post:
 In all his life time he was never knowne,
 That drinking others healths, he lost his owne;
 The *Dutch*, the *French*, the *Greek*, and *Spanish* Grape,
 Vpon his reason never made a Rape;
 For *Ryot*, is for *Troy* an Annagram;
 And *Ryot* wasted *Troy*, with sword and flame:
 And surely that which will a Kingdome spill,
 Hath much more power one silly man to kill,
 Whilst sensuality the Pallat pleases,
 The body's fill'd with surfets, and diseases;
 By *Ryot* (more than War) men slaughtered be,
 From which confusion this Old Man was free.
 He once was catch'd in the Venerall Sin,
 And (being punish'd) did experience win,
 That carefull feare his Conscience so did strike,
 He never would againe attempt the like.
 Which to our understandings may expresse
 Mens dayes are shortned through lasciuiousnesse,
 And that a competent contenting Dyet
 Makes men live long, and soundly sleepe in quiet.
 Make me not, I speake not to debar
 The use of all sorts, for all Creatures are

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The Life of Thomas Parr.

Made for mans use, and may by Man be us'd,
Not by voracious Gluttony abus'd.
For hee that dares to scandall or deprave
Good hous-keeping; Oh hang up such a Knave,
Rather commend (what is not to be found)
Then injure that wth makes the world renownd.
Bounty hath got a spice of *Lethargie*,
And liberall noble *Hospitality*
Lyes in consumption, almost pin'd to death,
And *Charity* benum'd, neere out of Breath.
May *Englands* few good hous-keepers be blest
With endlesse Glory, and eternall Rest;
And may their Goods, Lands, and their happy Seed
With heav'ns best Blessings multiply and breed.
'Tis madnesse to build heigh with stone and lime,
Great houses, that may seeme the Clouds to clime,
With spacious Halls, large Galleries, brave roomes
Fit to receive a King, Peeres, Squires and Groomes;
Amongst which rooms, the devill hath put a Witch
And made a small Tobacco-box the Kitchin; (in
For *Covetousnesse* the Mint of *Mischiefe* is,
And *Christian Bounty* the High-way to Blisse.
To weare a *Farm* in shoo-strings edg'd with gold,
And spangled Garters worth a Coppy hold
A hose and dublet, which a Lordship cost,
A gawdy cloake (three Manours price almost

The very Old Man: or

A Beaver, Band, and Feather for the head,
 (Priz'd at the Churches tythe, the poor mans bread)
 For which the Wearers are fear'd, and abhorr'd
 Like *Ieroboams* golden *Calves* ador'd.

This double, treble aged man, I wot,
 Knew and remember'd when these things were
 Good wholsome labour was his exercise, (not;
 Down wth the Lamb, & with the Lark would rise,
 In myre and toyling sweat hee spent the day,
 And (to his Teame) hee whistled Time away:
 The Cock his night-Clock, and till day was done,
 His Watch, and chiefe Sun-Diall, was the Sun.
 Hee was of old *Pithagoras* opinion, (onion)
 That greene cheefe was most wholsome (with any
 Course Mesclin bread, and for his daily swig,
 Milk, Butter-milk, and Water, Whay, and Whig;
 Sometimes Metheglin, and by fortune happy,
 Hee sometimes sup't a Cup of Ale, most nappy,
 Syder, or Perry, when hee did repaire
 To a Whirson Ale, Wake, Wedding, or a Faire;
 Or when in Christmas time hee was a Guest
 At his good Land-lords house amongst the rest:
 Else hee had little leasure Time to waste,
 Or (at the Alehouse) huffe-cap Ale to taste,
 Nor did hee ever hunt a Taverne Fox,
 Nere knew a Coach, Tobacco, or the Pox;

His

His Physick was good Butter, which the soyle
Of *Salop* yields, mote sweet than *Candy oyle*,
And Garlick hee esteem'd above the rate
Of *Venice-Triacle*, or best *Mithridate*.
Hee entertain'd no *Gowt*, no *Ache* hee felt,
The ayre was good, and temp'rat where he dwelt,
Whilst *Mavisses*, and sweet tongu'd *Nightingales*
Did chaunc him *Roundelayes*, and *Madrigals*.
Thus living within bounds of *Natures Lawes*,
Of his long lasting life may be some cause.
For though th'almighty all mans daies do measure,
And doth dispose of life and death at pleasure,
Yet Nature being wrong'd, mans dayes and date
May be abridg'd, and God may tollerate.

But had the Father of this *Thomas Parr*,
His Grand-father, and his Great grand-father,
Had their lives threds so long a length been spun,
They (by succession) might from Sire to Son
Have been unwritten *Chronicles*, and by
Tradition shew Times mutability.
Then *Parr* might say he heard his Father well
Say that his Grand-sire heard his Father tell
The death of famous *Edward the Confessor*,
(*Harrold*) and *William Conquerour* his Successor,
How his Son *Robert* won *Jerusalem*,
Ore-came the *Saracens*, and Conquer'd them.

How *Rufus* reign'd, and's Brother *Henry* next,
 And how usurping *Stephen* this Kingdome vext:
 How *Matilda* the Emperess (the first *Henries* daughter)
 To gaine her Right, fill'd *England* full of slaughter:
 Of second *Henry's* *Resonance* the faire,
 Of *Richard Cœur-de-Lyon*, his brave heire,
 King *John*, and of the foule suspicion
 Of *Arthurs* death, *Johns* elder Brothers Son,
 Of the third *Henrie's* long raigne (sixty yeares)
 The Barons wars, the losse of wrangling Peeres,
 How *Long-shanks* did the *Scotts* & *French* convince,
 Tam'd *Walls*, and made his haples son their Prince.
 How second *Edward* was *Carnarvon* call'd,
 Beaten by *Scotts*, and by his Queen inthrall'd,
 How the third *Edward*, fifty yeares did raigne,
 And'thonor'd Garters Order did ordaine.
 Next how the second *Richard* liv'd and dy'd,
 And how fourth *Henries* Faction did divide)
 The Realme with civill (most uncivill) war
 Twixt long contending *Torke* and *Lincafter*,
 How the fift *Henry* swayd, and how his son
 Sixt *Henry*, a sad Pilgrimage did run.
 Then of fourth *Edward*, and faire Mistrisse *Shore*,
 King *Edwards* Concubine Lord *Hastings* (—)
 Then how fift *Edward*, murdered with a trick
 Of the third *Richard*, and then how that *Dyk*

The Life of Thomas Parr.

Was by seventh *Henrie* slaine at *Bosworth* field;
How he and's son the eighth *Henry*, here did wield
The Scepter; how fixt *Edward* swayd,
How *Mary* rul'd, and how that royall Mayd
Elizabeth did Governe (best of Dames)
And *Phenix*-like expir'd, and how just *James*
(Another *Phenix*) from her Ashes claimes
The right of *Brittaines* Scepter, as his owne,
But (changing for a better) left the Crowne.
Where now 'tis, with King *Charles*, and may it be
With him, and his most blest Posterity
Till time shall end; be they on Earth renown'd,
And after with Eternity be crown'd. (ding)
Thus had *Parr* had good breeding, (without rea-
Hee from his sire, and Grandfathers sire proceeding,
By word of mouth had told most famous things
Done in the Reigns of all those Queens and Kings:
But hee in Husbandry hath bin brought up,
And nere did taste the *Hellionian* cup,
He nere knew History, nor in mind did keepe
Ought, but the price of Corne, Hay, Kine, or Sheep.
Day found him work, and Night allowd him rest.
Nor did Affaires of State his braine molest.
His highest Ambition was, A tree to lop,
Or at the furdressed a May poles top,
His Recreation, and his Mirths discourse
Hath been the *Pyper*, and the *Hobby-hors*. And

And in this simple sort, hee did with paine,
 From Childhood live to bee a Child againe.
 'Tis strange, a man that was in yeares so growne
 Should not be rich; but to the world 'tis knowne,
 That hee that's borne in any Land, or Nation;
 Vnder a Twelve-pence Planet's Domination,
 (By working of that Planets influence)
 Shall never live to be worth thirteene pence.
 Whereby (although his Learning did not show it)
 He was rich enough to be (like mee) a Poet.

But ere I doe conclude, I will relate
 Of reverend Age's Honourable state;
 Where shall a young man good Instructions have,
 But from the Ancient, from Experience grave?
 Roboam, (Sonne and Heire to Solomon)
 Rejecting ancient Counsell, was undone
 Almost; for ten of the twelve Tribes fell
 To Jeroboam King of Israel.
 And all wise Princes, and great Potentates
 Select and chuse Old men, as Magistrates,
 Whose Wisdome, and whose reverend Aspect,
 Knowes how and when to punish or protect.
 The Patriarkes long lives before the Flood,
 Were given them (as 'tis rightly understood)
 To store and multiply by procreations,
 That people should inhabit and breed Nations.

That

The Life of Thomas Parr.

That th' Ancients their Posterities might show
The secrets Deepe of Nature, how to know
To scale the skie with learn'd *Astronomy*,
And sound the *Oceans* deepe profundity;
But chiefly how to serve, and to obey
God, who did make them out of slime and clay;
Should men live now, as long as they did then,
The Earth could not sustaine the Breed of Men.
Each man had many wives, which *Bigamie*,
Was such increase to their Posterity,
That one old man might see before he dy'd,
That his owne only off-spring had supply'd
And Peopled Kingdomes.
But now so brittle's the estate of man,
That (in Comparison) his life's a span.
Yet since the Flood it may be proved plaine,
That many did a longer life retaine,
Than him I write of; for *Arpachshad* liv'd
Foure hundred thirty eight, *Shelah* surviv'd
Foure hundred thirty three yeares, *Eber* more,
For he liv'd twice two hundred sixty foure;
Two hundred yeares *Terah* was alive,
And *Abr'ham* liv'd one hundred seventy fyve.
Before *Iob's* Troubles, holy writ relates,
His sons and daughters were at marriage states.
And after his restoring, 'tis most cleare,

The very Old Man and T

That he survived one hundred forty years
John Butcher of report is true
 Is his name that is *Wilde*, the *Wandering Jew*
 'Tis said, he saw our Saviour dye; and how
 He was a man then, and is living now,
 Whence of Relations you (that will) may beader
 But pardon me, tis no part of my Creed
 Upon a Germanes Age, his witness shew
 That one *John* of *Temporibus* had name
 Was Armour-bearer to brave *Charlemagne*
 And that unto the age he did strain
 Of yeares three hundred forty ones, and then
 Old *John* of *Times* return'd to *Earth*
 And Noble *Nestor*, to the *Siege* of *Troy*
 Had liv'd three hundred yeares both *Man* and *boy*
 Sir *Walter Raleigh* (a noble learned Knight)
 Doth of an *Irish Countesse*, *Desmond*, *Wine*
 Of seven score yeares of Age, he with her spake
 The Lord *Saint Albans*, doth more mention make
 That he was Married in *Bourth*, *Edmund* *Wine*
 Thrice shed her Teeth, which three times came to
 The *High-land Scots* and the *Wilde Irish* are (gaine)
 Long liv'd with Labour hard, and temperate fare
 Against the *Barbarous Indians* live strong
 And yet, neere two hundred yeares long
 So as I said before, my Verse goes on
 By wounding Nature, men cut off their dayes.

Therefore (as Times are) He I now write on, y^e T
 The age of all in Britain hath outgonē; and ni bna
 All those that were alive when he had Birth, lo 02
 Are turn'd againe unto their mother earth; 1000
 If any of them live, and doo ere phyē; as it woud
 I will be sorry, and confesse flye. 110
 For had he bin a *Merchant*, then perhaps 120
 Stormes, Thunderclaps, or fear of Afterclaps, 130
 Sands, Rocks, or Roving Pyrats, Gulls and stormes
 Had made him (long before) the food of worms;
 Had he a *Mercer*, or a *Silk-man* bin,
 And trusted much in hope great gaine to win,
 And late and early striv'd to get or save,
 His Gray head had long since been laid in Grave.
 Or had he been a *Judge* or *Magistrate*,
 Or of Great Counsell in Affaires of state
 Then dayes important businesse, and nights cares
 Had long before, Interr'd his hoary haire:
 But as I writ before, no cares oppress him,
 None ever did Affaires of State molest him.
 Some may object, that they will not believe
 His Age to be so much, for none can give
 Account thereof, Time being past so far
 And at his Birth there was no Register.
 The Register was ninety seven yeares since
 Given by the eight *Henry* (that illustrious Prince)
 Th^e year

The very Old Man: or

Th'yeare fifteene hundred fourty wanting twaine)
And in the thirtieth yeare of that Kings raigne;
So old *Parr* now, was almost an old man,
Neere sixty ere the Register began.
I have writ as much as Reason can require,
How Times did passe, how's Leases did expire;
And Gentlemen oth County did Relate
T^o our gracious King by their Certificate (him;
His age, & how time wth gray haire hath crown'd
And so I leave him older than I found him.

A Postscript.

THe changes of Manners, the variations of Customes, the mutability of Times, the inslings of Fashions, the alterations of Religions, the diversities of Sects, and the intermixture of Accidents which hath hapned since the Birth of this old *Thomas Parr*, in this Kingdom; although all of them are not to be held worthy of mentioning, yet many of them are worthy to be had in memory.

In the sixt yeare of his Age, and in the second yeare of the reign of King *Henry the seventh*, one *Lambert Simpell*, (the Son of a Baker) claimed the Crowne, and was crowned King of *Ireland*; and Proclaimed King of *England* in the Citie of *Dublin*. This Palsey fellow did put the King to much cost and trouble, for hee landed with an Army at *Penrhy* in *Lancashire*, and at a place called *Snake*, the King met him, and after a sharpe and short Battell, overcame and tooke him, and pardoning him his Life, gave him a Turn-broaches place in his chaine, and afterwards made him one of his Faulconers.

In the tenth yeare of his Age, and the eighth of *Henry the seventh* another Yorkshire, whose name was *Parker Warbeck* (as some write, a Tinkers Son in *Thurnay*) some say his Father was a Jew, notwithstanding,

standing, he likewise put the King to much charge and trouble, for he was assisted with Souldiers from *Scotland* and *France*; besides, many joyned with him in *England*, till at the last, the King tooke him, and (on his true Confession, pardon'd him) hee falling againe to his old Practice, was executed at *Tyburne*. 1499.

The same yeare also, a Shoemakers Son, dwelling in *Bishopsgate-Street*, likewise claimed the Crowne, under the name of *Edward*, Earle of *Warwick*, the Son of *George*, Duke of *Clarence*, Brother to King *Edward* the fourth; but this young Shoemaker ended his claime in a halter at *Saint Thomas a Waterings*; which was a warning for him, not to surpasse *Ne Sutor ultra Crepidam*.

Another Counterfeit, the Son of a Miller claimed the Crowne, (in the second yeare of Queene *Maries* raigne) saying that hee was King *Edward* the sixth; but the tenth of *May*, 1552, those Royall Opinions were whip'd out of him for a while, till hee fell to his old claime agen; and purchas'd a hanging the thirteenth of *March* following. So much for Impostures and Counterfeits.

For Religion, hee hath knowne the Times of divers Sects and Changes, as the Romish Cacholick Religion from his Birth, till the 24 yeare of King *Henry* the eight, the time of 50 yeares: And then the 26 of his raigne (the Kings understanding being illuminated from above) hee cast the Popes Authority out of this Kingdome, 1534; and restored the Ancient and Primitive Religion, which continued under the Title of *Protestants*, till the end of his Son, King *Edward* the sixth his raign, which was neer about 20 yeares, then was a bloody alteration, or return to Papistry for more than 5 yeares, all the raign of Queen *Mary*; since whose death, the Protestant Religion again was happily restored, continued, and maintained by the Defenders of the True, Ancient, Catholike, and Apostolike Faith, these 60 yeares and more, under the blessed Governments of Queene *Elizabeth*; King *James*, and King *Charles*: All which time, *Thomas Parr* hath not been troubled in mind for either the building or throwing downe of Abbeys, and Religious Houses; nor did hee ever murmur at the manner of Prayers, let them be Latin or English, hee held it fast to be of the Religion of the King or Queene that were in being, for he knew that hee came raw into the world, and accounted it no point of Wisdome to be broyled out of it: His name was never questioned for affirming or denying the Kings Supremacie: He hath known the

time when men were so mad as to kneele downe and pray before a Blocke, a Stock, a Stone, a Picture, or a Relique of a Hee or Shee Saint departed; and he liv'd in a time when mad men would not bow their knee at the name of *Iesus*; that are more afraid to see a white Surplisse, than to weare a white Sheer; that despise the Crosse (in any thing but money) that hold Latin to be the language of the Beast, and hate it deadly because the Pope speaks it; that would patch up a Religion with untemper'd Morter, out of their owne Braines, not grounded upon the true Corner-stone; who are furnish'd with a lazy idle Faith; that holds good workes a maine Point of Popery; that hold their Religion truest, because it is contrary to all Order and Discipline, both of Church and Common-wealth: These are sprung up since old *Tom Parr* was borne.

But he hath out-liv'd many Sectaries and Heretikes; For in the 32 yeare of the reigne of King *Henry* the eighth, 1540. the 3 of *May*, three Annabaptists were burnt in the High-way, between *Saughmark* and *Newington*. In the fourth yeare of King *Edward* the sixth, one *George of Paris*, a Dutchman, was burn'd in *Smithfield*, for being an Arian Heretike, 1551. 1583, One *Iohn Lenn* denied the God-head of Christ, was burnt at *Norwich*, in the 26 yeare of *Elizabeth*. Not long before that, there was one *Iour Butcher* (Alias) *Lone of Kent*, burnt for the like.

In the third yeare of *Queene Elizabeth's* raigne, one *William Geffrey* affirmed one *Iohn Moore* to be Christ, but they were both whip'd out of that presumptuous Opinion, 1561.

In the 17 of *Queene Elizabeth*, the Sect of the Family of Love began 1575, but it took no deep root.

In the 21 of *Queene Elizabeth*, one *Mathew Hammet* was burn'd at *Norwich* for denying Christ to be our Saviour, 1575.

In the 33 of *Queene Elizabeth*, one *William Flacke* was hang'd for professing himselfe to be Christ, 1591.

In the 9 yeare of King *James*, the 12 of *April*, 1611, one *Edward Wigham* was burn'd at *Lincolne* for Arianisme.

So much have I written concerning Sects and Heresies, which have beene in this Kingdome in his time: now I trasp of some other Postages.

Hee hath out-liv'd six great Plagues. Hee was borne long before we had much use of Printing: for it was brought into this Kingdome

A Postscript

A Postscript

done 1472. and it was long after ere it was in use.

Hee was above 80 years old before any Gunnes were made in England, 1535.

The Vintoners sold no Sacks, Muscadels, Malmseys, Bassards, Allegants, nor any other Wines but White and Claret, till the 33 yeare of King Henry the eight 1543, and then was Old Parr 60 yeares of age: all those sweet Wines were sold till that time at the Apothecaries for no other use, but for Medicines.

There was no Starch used in England, till a Flanders woman, one Mistress Dingen Vandew Plasse brought in the use of Starch, 1564, and then was this man neere 80 yeares old.

There were no Bands worne till King Henry the eighth time; for hee was the first King that ever wore a Band in England, 1513.

Womens Masques, Busks, Muffs, Fannes, Periwigs, and Boddies, were invented by Italian Curtezans, and transported through France into England, in the ninth of Queene Elizabeth.

Tobacco was first brought into England by Sir Iohn Hawkins, 1565, but it was first brought into use by Sir Walter Rawleigh many yeares after.

He was 81 yeares old before there was any Coach in England: for the first that ever was seene here, was brought out of the Netherlands, by one William Booney, a Dutch-man, who gave a Coach to Queene Elizabeth; (for she had been seven yeares a Queene before she had any Coach) since when, they have increased (with a miscellany and ruin'd all the best Houes, keeping to the undoing of the Watermen, by the multitudes of Hackney or hired Coaches: but they never swarmed so thick to pester the streets, as they doe now, till the yeare 1605, and then was the Gun-powder Treason hatch'd, and at that time did the Coaches breed and multiply.

He hath out-liv'd the Fashion, at least 40 times over and over.

He hath known many Changes of Scarcity (of Death) and Plentie: but I will speake onely of the Plentie.

In the yeare 1499, the 15 of Henry 7. Wheat was sold for the quarter, or 8. 4. the bushell, and Rye at 4. 3. and Wine at 40 fillings the Tun, which is about three pence the quart.

In the first of Queene Mary, Barley was sold for sixpence the Bushell, the Ciske and all, and three great Hayes for one penny.

In the yeare 1557, the first of Queene Mary, the Penny Wheat

Leafe was in weight, and in strength, and in other things, people would
change a Bull of the Pope for a Bull of the King of Castile.

So much shall I leave to the Reader, who may see the Changes and Alter-
rations that have happened in his time.

Now for a Memoriall of his Name, he gives a little more. I will not search for the Antiquity of the name of *Parr*, but I find it
to be an Honorable name in the 13 years of King *Edward* the fourth, the
King sent Sir *William Parr* Knight, to create upon the Archbishop
of *York* Goods, at a place called the *Mors*, in *Gloucestershire*, 1472:
this Sir *William Parr* was Knight of the Right Honourable Order
of the Garter.

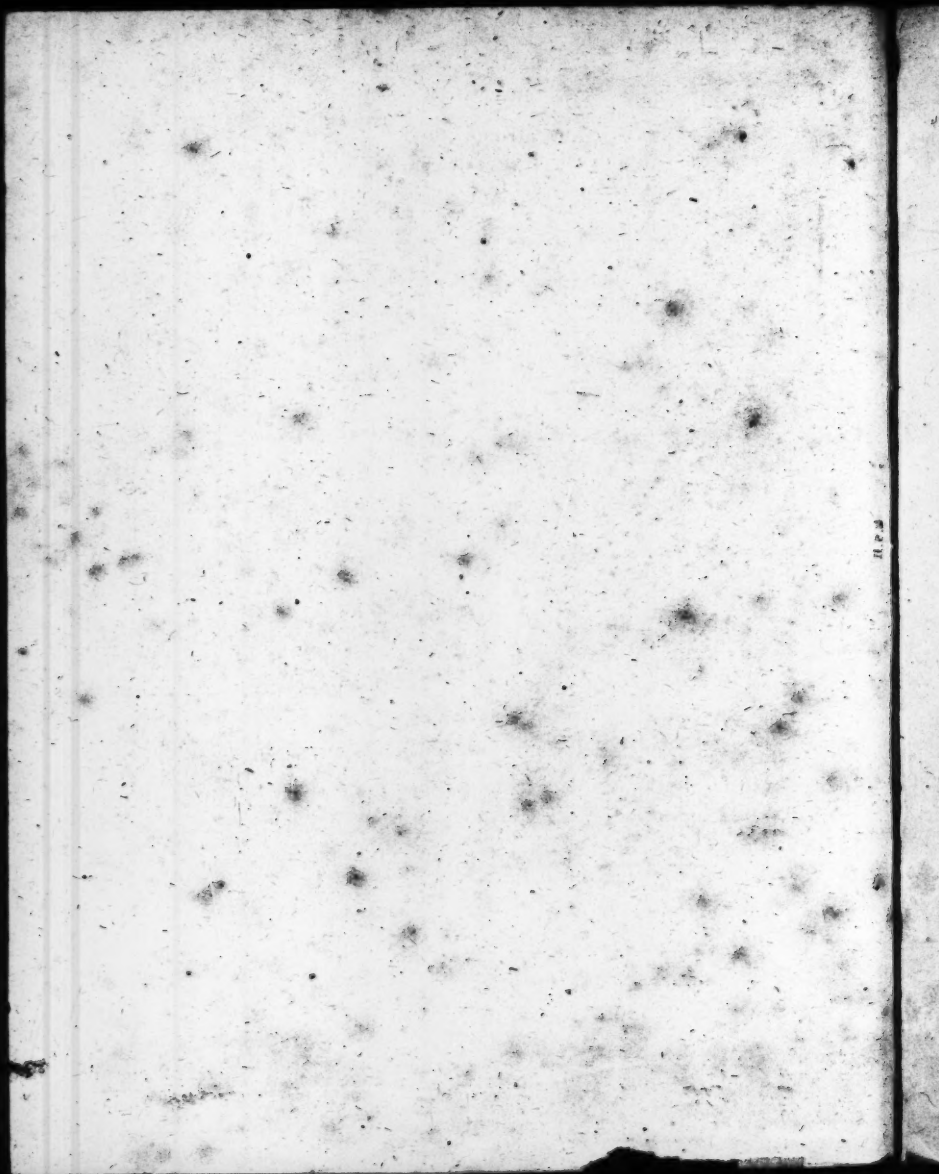
In the 22 of *Edward* the fourth, the same Sir *William Parr* went
with an Army to warre *Scotland*, with *Richard* Duke of *Gloucester*.

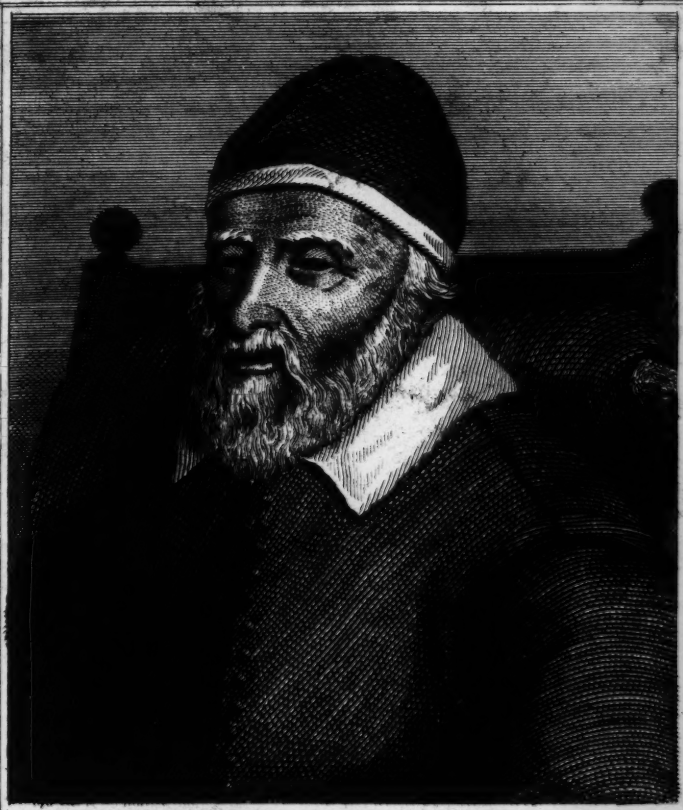
In the year 1543, the 35 years of King *Henry* the eight, *July* 23,
he was married to Lady *Katherine Parr*; and the 24 of *December*
following, the Queenes Brother, *William* Lord *Parr*, was created
Earle of *Essex*, and Sir *William Parr* then Viceroy was made Lord *Parr*
of *Horton*, and Chamberlaine to the Queen; and the first of *King*
Edward the first, *William Parr*, Earle of *Essex* was created Marquisse
of *Norhampton*, and in the 4 years of King *Edward* the sixth, 1550,
the said Marquisse was made Lord Great Chamberlaine of *England*,
and on the 11 of *April*, 1551, hee (amongst other Lords) Mustred
and were well appointed Horsemen of his owne charge before King
Edward the sixth, at *Windsor* (his Countie of *Gloucester* being the
place) in the field of *Windsor*, hee took part with the
King, and was taken prisoner, which he was then and committed
to the Tower, where hee lay in prison (and was released againe
the 11 of *March*, 1552).

And the 11 of *December*, 1552, the same Marquisse of
Norhampton was made Duke of *Buckingham*, Lord High Admiral, and
Treasurer of *England*, and was made Lord *Parr* of *Horton*, (who had been her Lord
of *Horton*) which made him the first Duke of most Honour-
rable name in *England*.

And the death of King *Edward* the sixth, *July* 6, 1553, he
was married to the 2 daughter of King *Henry* the eighth, and the
1 of *September*, 1553.

And thus by these things we may see how *William Parr* was
will make more of his name, than that of *Parr*.



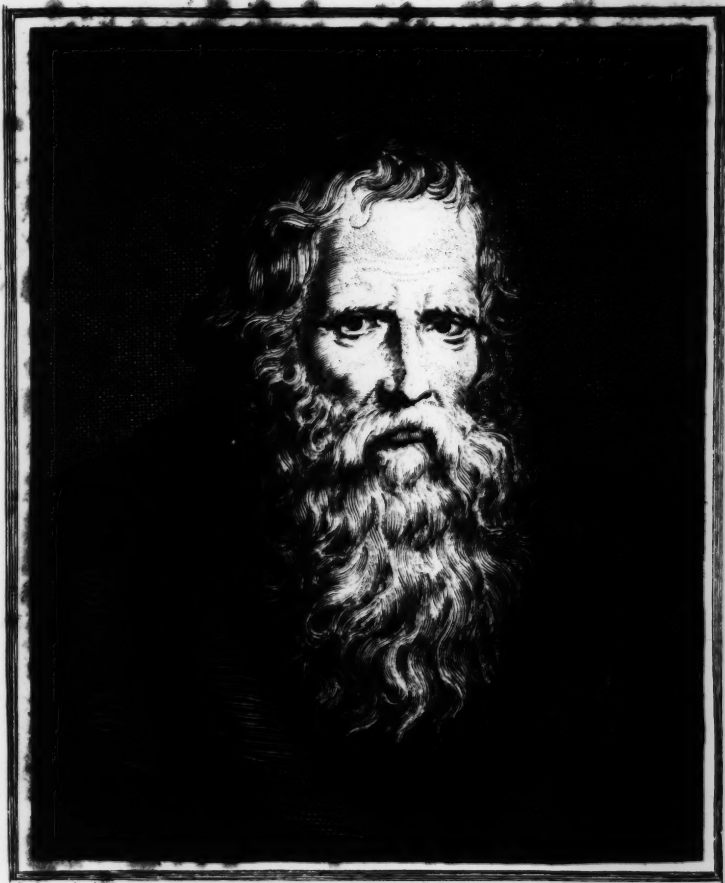


Old THOMAS PARR of
Winnington in Shropshire,

Who lived in the Reign of Ten Kings & Queens.

He died in the Strand, 1634. Aged 152 Years.



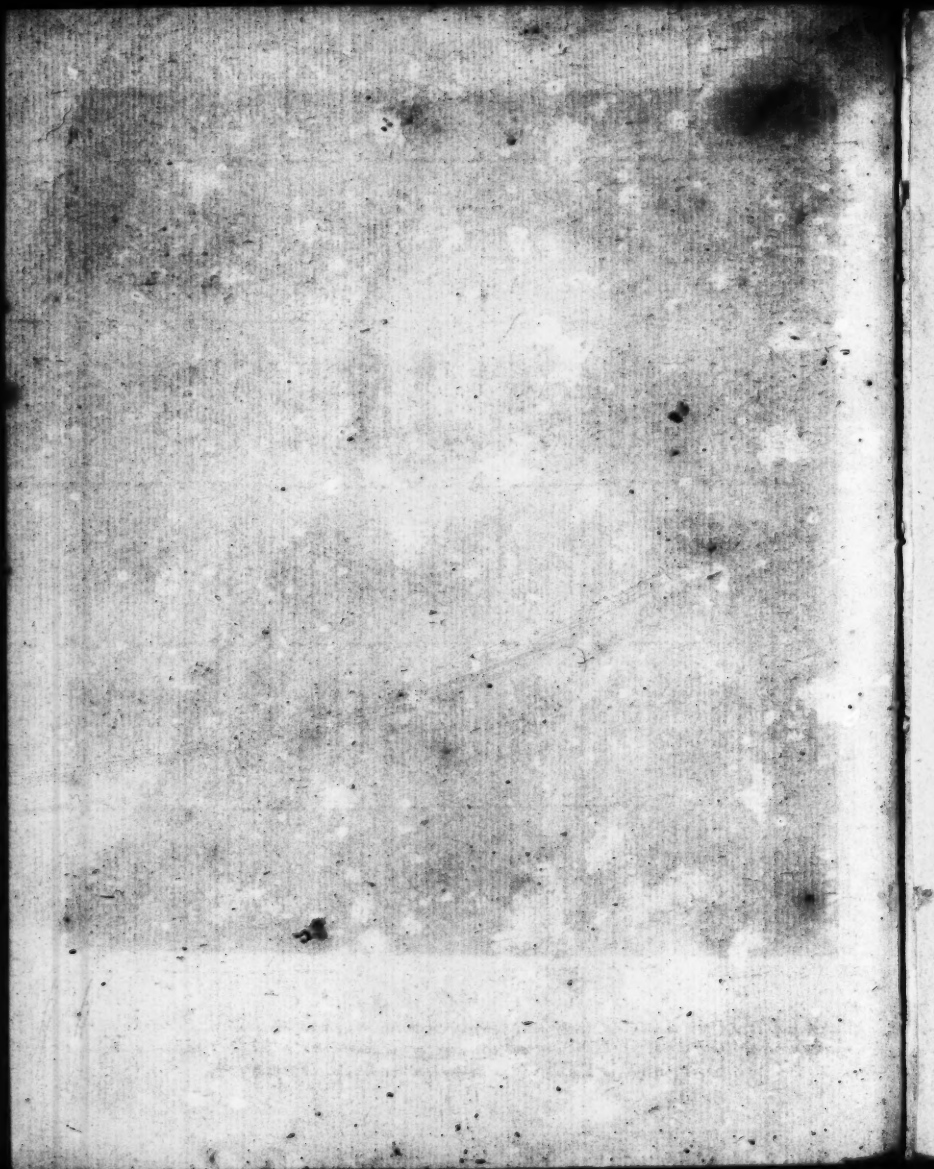


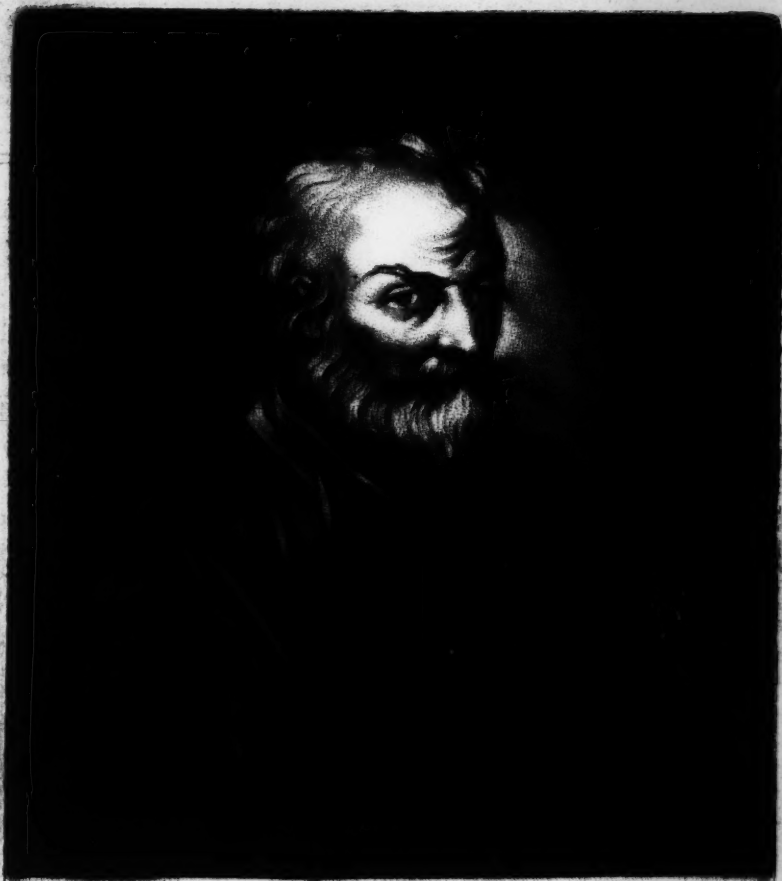
Rubens pingit

Conde. sculpit

OLD PARR,

Aged 152 Years.

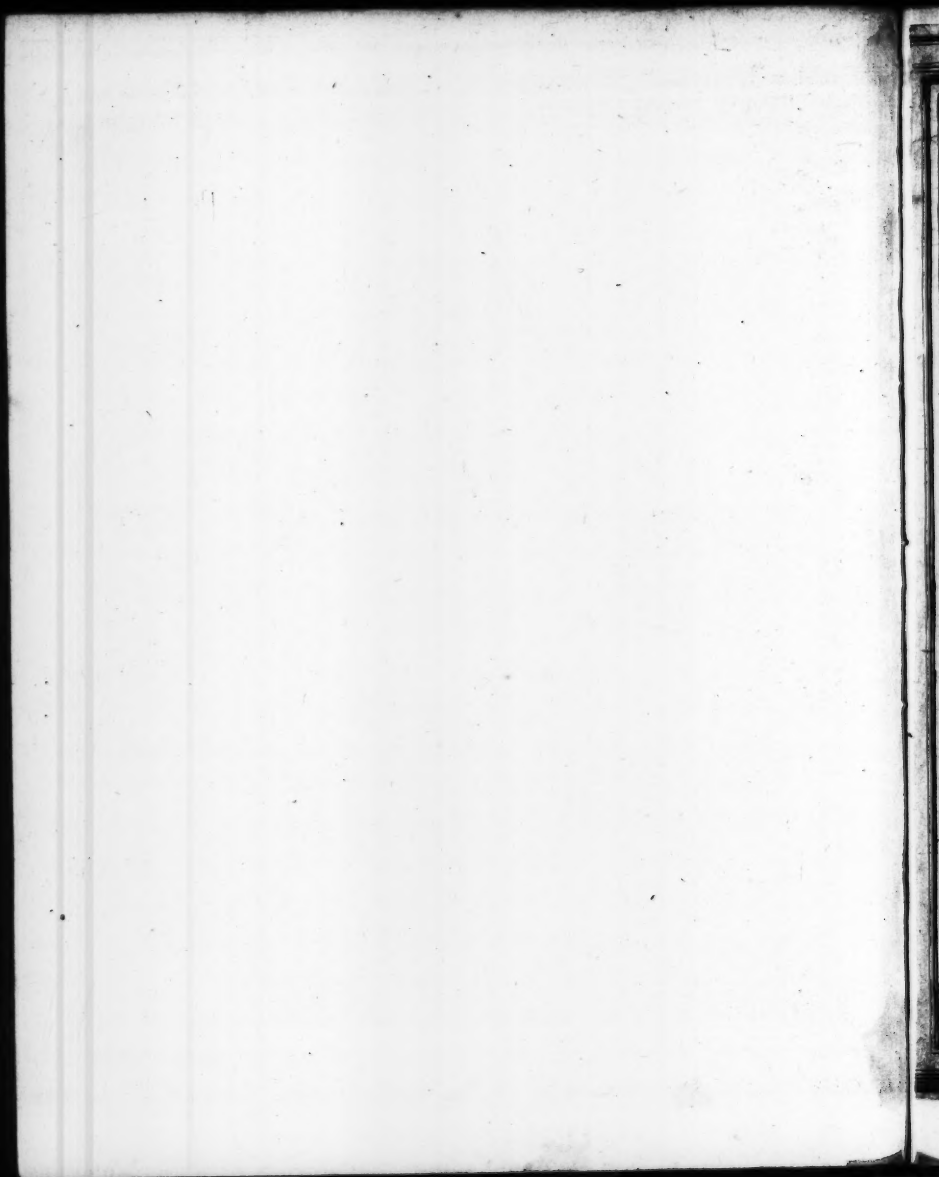




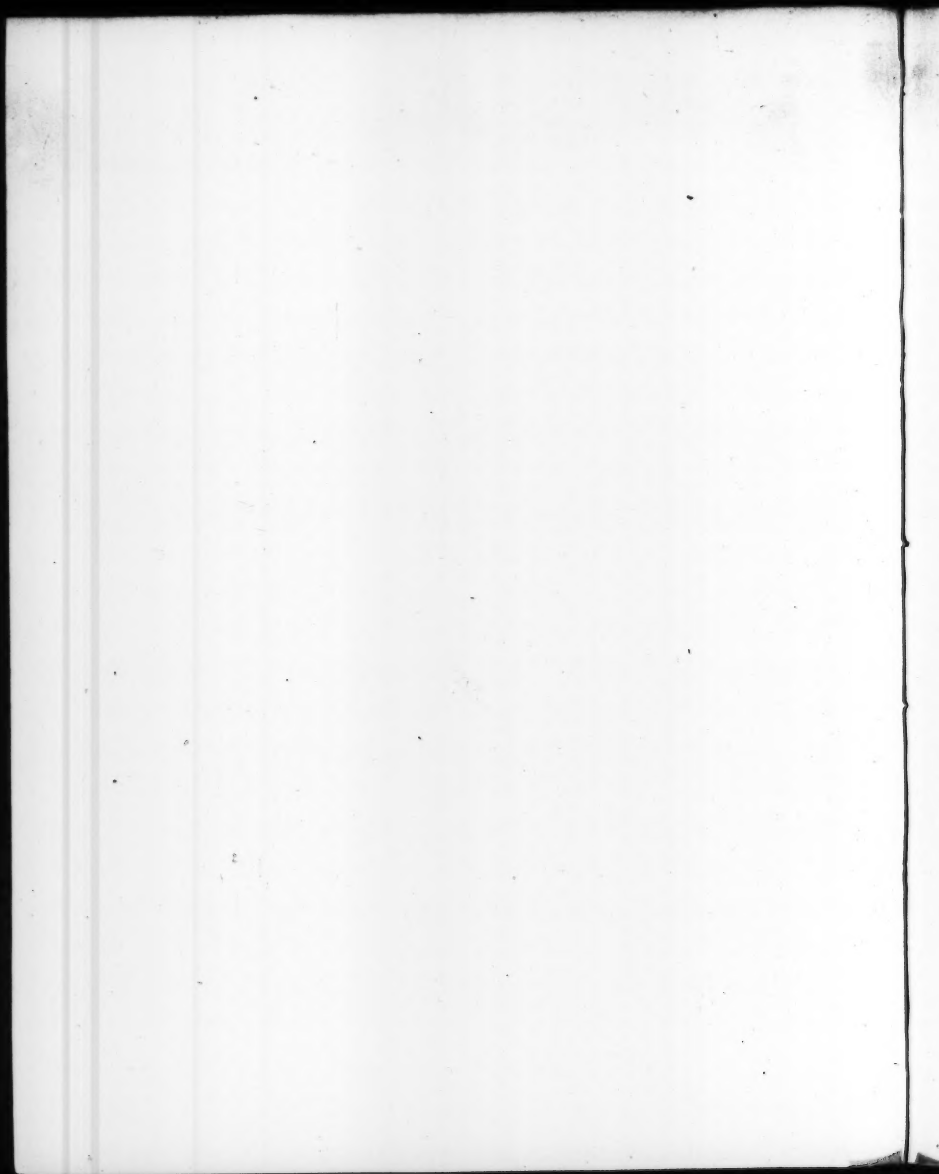
YOUNG PARR.

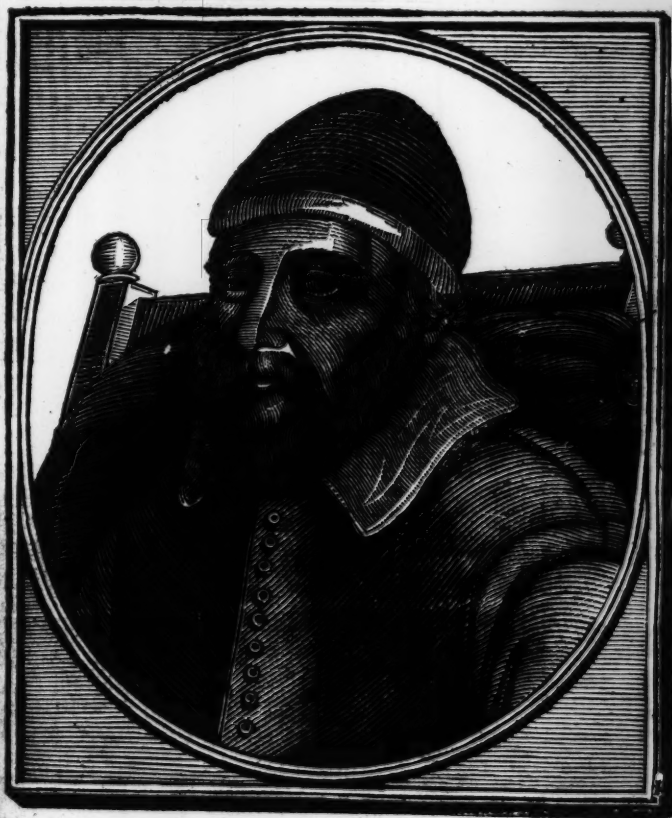
Son to Tho: Parr the Shropps hire man, who was born in 1483 & died in 1635. His living
to so great an Age as 151 Years, occasioned his Son to be called young Parr, as past 4 score.

Printed for Rab: Sayer, at the Golden Buckin Fleet Street.

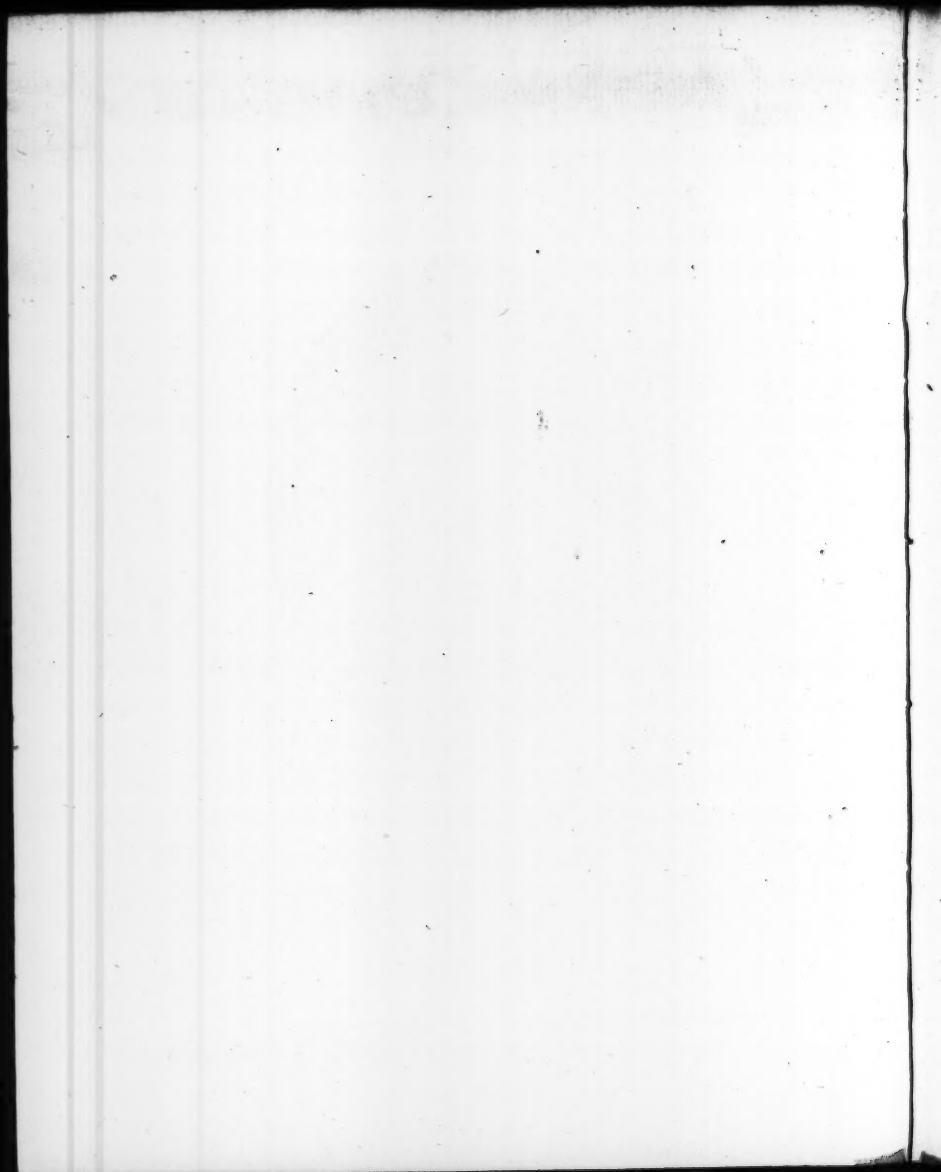








OLD PARR.



THOMAS PARR.



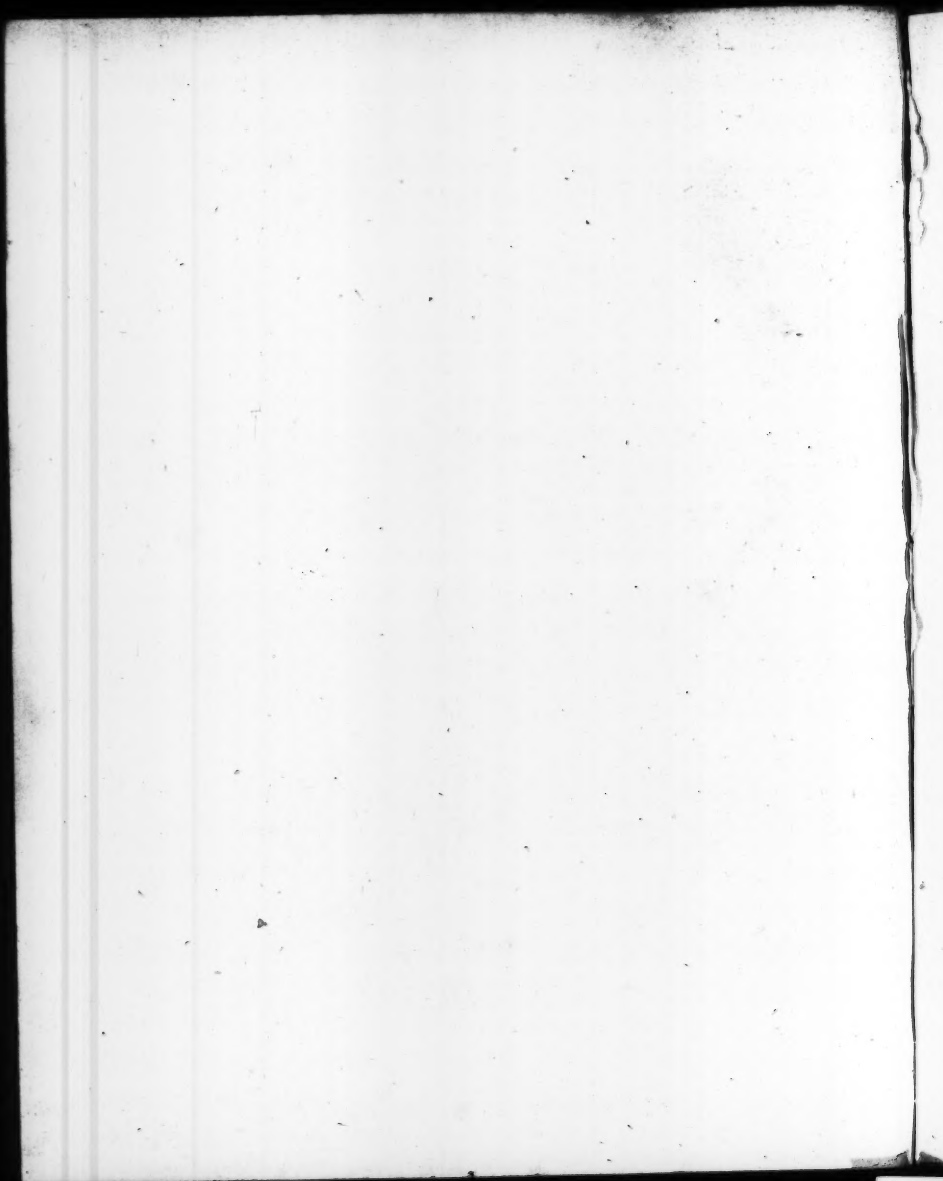
Pub. 24th Dec. 1807 by James Dancer London.





OLD PARR.

Engraved for the Encyclopædia Londinensis.





THOMAS PARR.